

Maryland Weekly Influenza Surveillance Activity Report

A summary of influenza surveillance indicators reported to DHMH for the week ending October 05, 2013

Prepared by the Office of Infectious Disease Epidemiology and Outbreak Response
Prevention and Health Promotion Administration
Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

SUMMARY

During the week ending October 05, 2013, influenza-like illness (ILI) intensity in Maryland was **MINIMAL** and there was **SPORADIC** geographic spread of influenza. Three influenza-associated hospitalizations were reported. One specimen received at the DHMH Laboratories Administration tested positive for type A influenza by PCR. One outbreak of respiratory disease was reported, and the visits to sentinel providers and Maryland emergency departments for ILI were below expected levels.

[Click here to visit our influenza surveillance web page](#)

ILI Intensity Levels

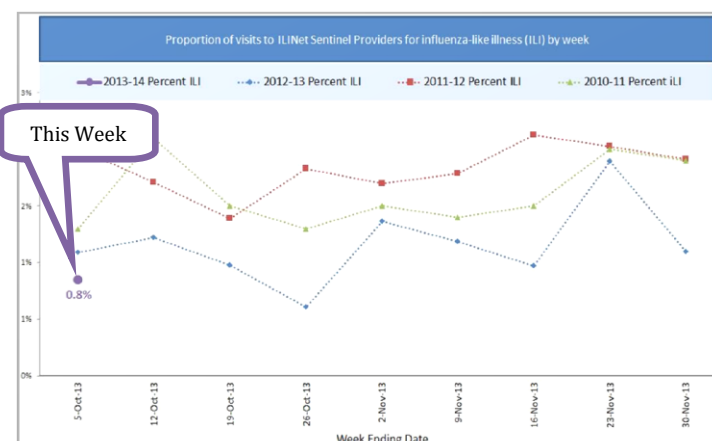
✓ Minimal
Low
Moderate
High

Influenza Geographic Spread

No Activity
✓ Sporadic
Local
Regional
Widespread

ILINet Sentinel Providers

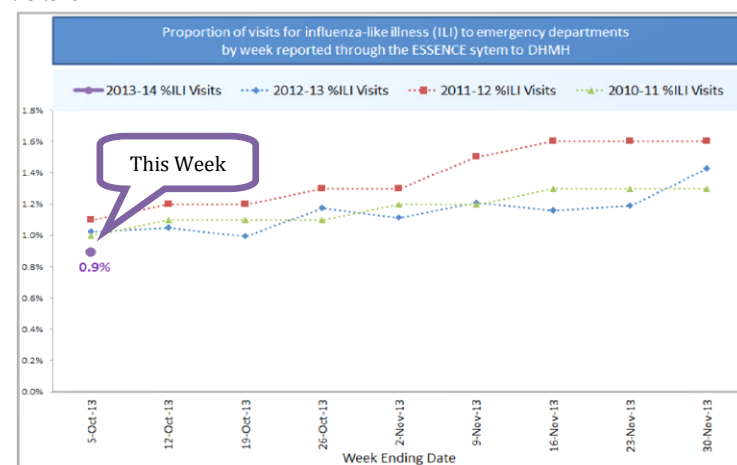
Eleven sentinel providers reported a total of 3,782 visits last week. Of those, 32 (0.8%) were visits for ILI. This is **below** the Maryland baseline of **2.0%**.



ILI Visits To Sentinel Providers By Age Group	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Age 0-4	9 (28%)	--	9 (28%)
Age 5-24	14 (44%)	--	14 (44%)
Age 25-49	7 (22%)	--	7 (22%)
Age 50-64	1 (3%)	--	1 (3%)
Age ≥ 65	1 (3%)	--	1 (3%)
Total ILI Visits	32 (100%)	--	32 (100%)

Visits to Emergency Departments for ILI

Emergency Departments in Maryland reported a total of 45,125 visits last week through the [ESSENCE surveillance system](#). Of those visits, 402 (0.9%) were visits for ILI.



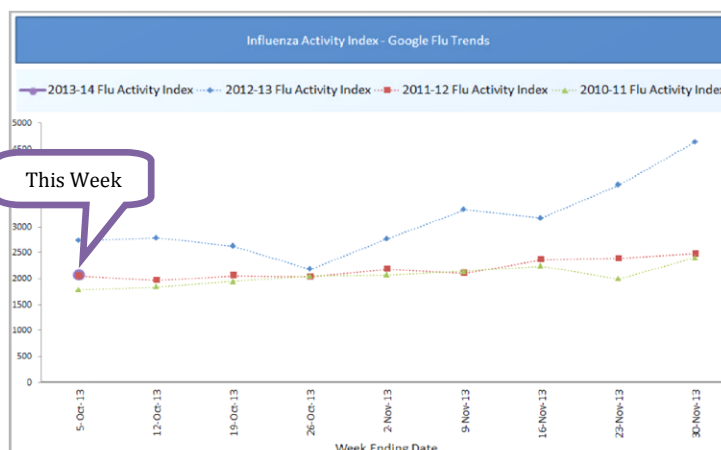
ILI Visits To Emergency Departments By Age Group	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Age 0-4	105 (26%)	--	105 (26%)
Age 5-24	132 (33%)	--	132 (33%)
Age 25-49	107 (27%)	--	107 (27%)
Age 50-64	38 (9%)	--	38 (9%)
Age ≥ 65	19 (5%)	--	19 (5%)
Total ILI Visits	401 (100%)	--	401 (100%)

Other states' influenza information:

Delaware <http://dhss.delaware.gov/dph/epi/influenzahome.html>
District of Columbia <http://doh.dc.gov/service/influenza>
Pennsylvania [http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/influenza_\(flu\)/14161](http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/influenza_(flu)/14161)
Virginia <http://www.vdh.state.va.us/Epidemiology/Surveillance/Influenza/>
West Virginia <http://dhhr.wv.gov/oeps/disease/flu/Pages/fluSurveillance.aspx>

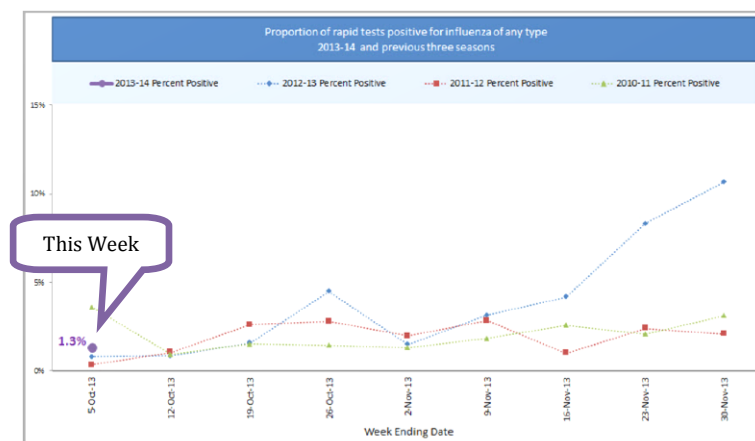
Community-based Influenza Surveillance (MRITS and Google Flu Trends)

MRITS is the Maryland Resident Influenza Tracking System, a weekly survey for ILI. A total of 569 residents responded to the [MRITS survey](#) this week. Of those, 5 (0.9%) reported having an influenza-like illness and missing a cumulative 9 days of regular daily activities. According to [Google Flu Trends](#), influenza activity is "low" in Maryland.



Clinical Laboratory Influenza Testing

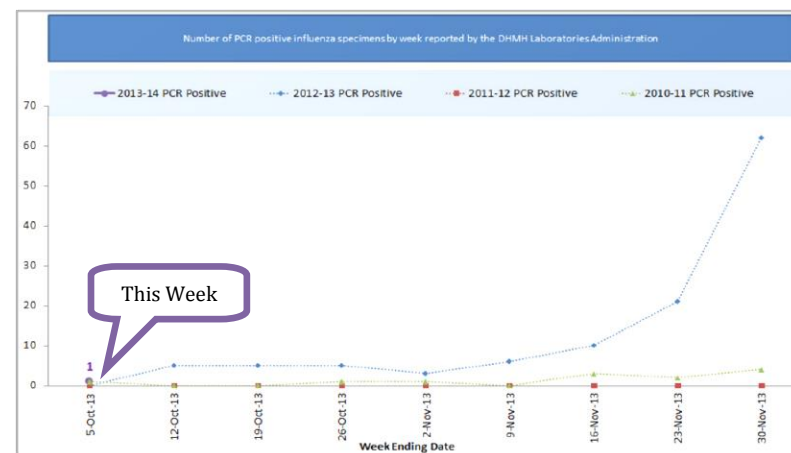
Eighteen clinical laboratories reported 299 rapid influenza diagnostic tests (RIDT) performed. Of those, 4 (1.3%) were positive for type A influenza. The [reliability of RIDTs](#) depends largely on the conditions under which they are used. False-positive (and true-negative) results are more likely to occur when the disease prevalence in the community is low, which is generally at the beginning and end of the influenza season and during the summer.



Positive Rapid Flu Tests by Type	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Type A	4 (100%)	--	4 (100%)
Type B	--	--	--
Total	4 (100%)	--	4 (100%)

State Laboratories Administration Influenza Testing

The DHMH Laboratories Administration performed a total of 25 PCR tests for influenza. One was positive for type A influenza. (Influenza tests performed at the State Laboratory are considered the gold standard of influenza laboratory testing for influenza surveillance purposes.)



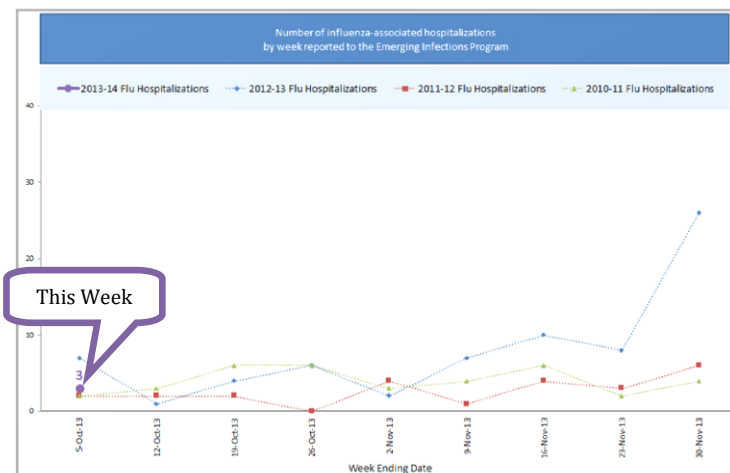
Positive PCR Tests by Type	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Type A (H1)	1 (100%)	--	1 (100%)
Type A (H3)	--	--	--
Type A (H3N2v)	--	--	--
Type B	--	--	--
Total	1 (100%)	--	1 (100%)

Where to get an influenza vaccination

Interested in getting a flu vaccine for the 2013-14 influenza season? Go to <http://dhmh.maryland.gov/flumnd/SitePages/getvaccinated.aspx> and click on your county/city of residence. You will be redirected to your local health department website for local information on where to get your flu vaccine.

Influenza-associated Hospitalizations

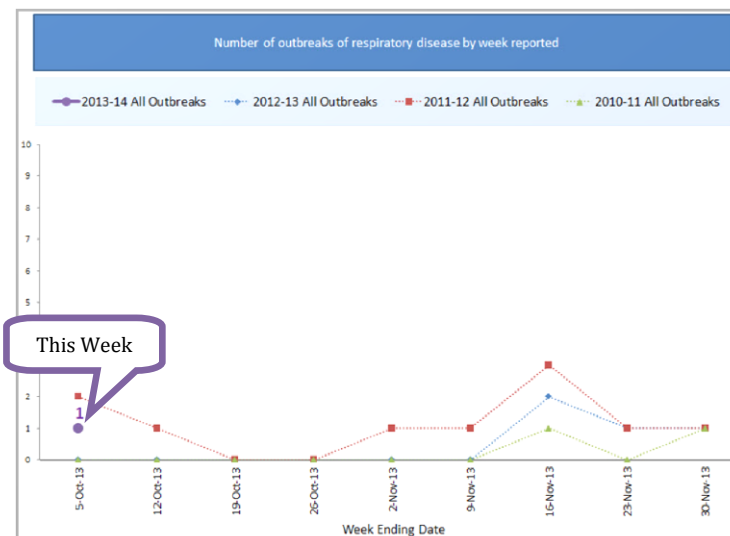
Last week, hospitals in Maryland reported 3 influenza-associated hospitalizations. (A person with an overnight hospital stay along with a positive influenza test of any kind, e.g. rapid test or PCR, is considered an “influenza-associated hospitalization” for purposes of influenza surveillance.)



Influenza-Associated Hospitalizations by Age Group	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Age 0-4	1 (33%)	--	1 (33%)
Age 5-17	--	--	--
Age 18-24	--	--	--
Age 25-49	--	--	--
Age 50-64	--	--	--
Age ≥ 65	2 (67%)	--	2 (67%)
Total	3 (100%)	--	3 (100%)

Outbreaks of Respiratory Disease

One outbreak of respiratory disease was reported to DHMH last week. (Disease outbreaks of any kind are reportable in Maryland. Respiratory outbreaks may be reclassified once a causative agent is detected, e.g. from ILI to influenza.)



Respiratory Outbreaks by Type	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Influenza	--	--	--
Influenza-like Illness	--	--	--
Pneumonia	1 (100%)	--	1 (100%)
Other Respiratory	--	--	--
Total	1 (100%)	--	1 (100%)

National Influenza Surveillance (CDC)

Influenza surveillance reports for the United States are usually posted online weekly at <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly>. Due to Government shutdown, regular updates to the CDC Influenza web site, including the weekly FluView report and updates to guidance for clinicians, will not be possible. Therefore NO data is available for this section.